

**POLYMER LETTERS**

white balance correcting means for correcting white balance of a picked-up image on the basis of white balance data obtained by beforehand picking up an image of a predetermined object;

control means for, when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain white balance data to be used for said white balance correcting means, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to selectively use, from among the plurality of distance measuring points on the image picking-up plane, one predetermined distance measuring point or a predetermined number of distance measuring points that are smaller in number than the plurality of distance measuring points.

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picking up an image of a predetermined object; and

when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain the white balance data, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to selectively use, from among the plurality of distance measuring points on the image picking-up plane, one predetermined distance measuring point or a predetermined number of distance measuring points that are smaller in number than the plurality of distance measuring points.

9. A control method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of controlling the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism to make a determination level with which said automatic focusing mechanism determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an ordinary image picking-up operation.

10. A control method according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined object is white in color.

11. A control method for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing mechanism arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image on the basis of white balance data obtained by beforehand

picking up an image of a predetermined object; and

when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain the white balance data, inhibiting the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism.

12. A control method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined object is white in color.

13. A control method for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing mechanism having a first method of automatically performing a focusing operation by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal and a second method of automatically performing a focusing operation on the basis of distance information measured correspondingly with a period of time from emission of predetermined light until reception of reflection of the predetermined light, said control method comprising the steps of:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image on the basis of white balance data obtained by beforehand picking up an image of a predetermined object; and

when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain the white balance data, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to select the second method.



determination level with which said automatic focusing mechanism determines an in-focus state lower than that used for an ordinary image picking-up operation.

17. A storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined object is white in color.

18. A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing mechanism arranged to automatically perform a focusing operation by detecting a high-frequency component of a picked-up image signal, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image on the basis of white balance data obtained by beforehand picking up an image of a predetermined object; and

when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain the white balance data, inhibiting the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism.

19. A storage medium according to claim 18, wherein the predetermined object is white in color.

20. A storage medium which stores therein a program for executing a process for controlling an electronic camera having an automatic focusing mechanism having a first method of automatically performing a focusing operation by detecting a high-frequency component of a

picked-up image signal and a second method of automatically performing a focusing operation on the basis of distance information measured correspondingly with a period of time from emission of predetermined light until reception of reflection of the predetermined light, said process comprising:

correcting white balance of a picked-up image on the basis of white balance data obtained by beforehand picking up an image of a predetermined object; and

when picking up an image of the predetermined object so as to obtain the white balance data, controlling the operation of said automatic focusing mechanism by causing said automatic focusing mechanism to select the second method.

21. A storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the predetermined object is white in color.